



THE SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Residential Horticulture
Seminole County Extension
407-665-5550



JULY -AUGUST- SEPTEMBER

LAWNS:

- **Mowing:** Mow at 3-4 inches on standard varieties or 2 ½ inches on semi-dwarf varieties of St. Augustine grass. Never remove more than 1/3 of the size of the plant. Do not mow when soil is wet, it will cause injuries to the grass.
- **Irrigation:** Watering should complement rainfall to prevent drought stress. Apply ¾ - 1 inch of water twice a week if no rainfall occurs. Grass should receive 1 ½ - 2 inches water per week. Watering should be done only in the morning to avoid prolonged periods of wetness at night on the grass leaves.
- **Weed Control:** The best method to control weeds is through a healthy, vigorous turf. Do not apply herbicides unless grass and weeds are actively growing, not under water stress, and when temperatures are above 85 degrees F, because it can result in turf injury.
- **Fertilization:** For highly maintained lawns, use 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet early in July (6.5 pounds of a fertilizer with 15% nitrogen or 10 pounds of a fertilizer containing 10% nitrogen). For low and highly maintained lawns, use 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet in September. Fertilizer should contain 30% or more of the nitrogen in the slow release form, if not, use only 0.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet of turf surface. Higher rates of nitrogen encourage chinch bugs or fungal disease development.

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SUMMER 2012

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HORTICULTURAL SERVICES



Horticultural Agent Dr. Al Ferrer

Soil Testing Tests performed Mon. & Fri.
Fee \$2.00 per sample
Samples accepted Mon-Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm

Plant Clinic Mon.- Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm
Bring in a sample Free service

"Ask A Master Gardener" Call 407-665-5550
Phone Service Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm

Speakers, Workshops, Special events
Free Publications on many lawn & garden topics

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS ~ EXTENSION
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

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(Continued from pg 1)

- **Disease Control:** Brown areas could be caused by fungi. If damage by fungi is diagnosed, use a systemic fungicide at least two times, two weeks apart for more effective control.
- **Pest Control:** Scout for insects in yellowing areas, soapy water may help detect some types of insects, mainly chinch bugs. If pest insects are present, apply an insecticide formulated for lawn use.

CITRUS

- **Fertilization:** Recently transplanted trees should be fertilized only after new growth starts. For fruit bearing trees, the 3rd application of fertilizer should be in August. Spread the fertilizer over the area from about 2 ft. from the trunk to 3 feet past the drip line. Apply a citrus special fertilizer ¼ the total amount recommended per year (Total pounds of fertilizer per year is equal to total inches of tree trunk circumference).
- **Irrigation:** Citrus require about ¾ to 1 inch of water twice a week. If rains do not supply at least that amount of water, supplemental irrigation is necessary to supply the water needs of the tree.
- **Pruning:** Pruning should be done only to remove diseased or unproductive branches.

PALMS

- **Fertilization:** Palms should be fertilized four times per year. In deep sandy soils up to six times per year. Use 1.5 pounds per 100 square feet of a palm special fertilizer to supply adequate amounts of magnesium and manganese so important for palm growth.
- **Irrigation:** Most palms will benefit from a supplemental watering once per week. Palms from arid regions such as Date Palms should not be in irrigation areas designed for turf.
- **Pruning:** Palms only require removal of dead, badly damaged or diseased leaves. Make the first cut from under the leaf petiole and then make the next cut from the top to avoid tearing the bark of the palm as you cut the leaf.

Summer Vegetables & Herbs

VEGETABLES – Boniato, Calabaza, Cassava, Cherry tomato, Okra, Southern pea, Sweet potato, and Garden beans.

HERBS - Basil, Cilantro, Dill, Ginger, Oregano, Mint, Rosemary, and Thyme.

BULBS - African iris, Day lily, Gladiolus, Gloriosa lily, Rain lily and Society garlic.

FLOWERS –Ageratum, Begonia, Blue daze, Cat's whiskers, Coleus, Ginger, Impatiens, Marigold, Moon flower, Pentas, Periwinkle, Moss flower, Salvia and Zinnia.

FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOOD

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Right Plant, Right Place | 6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly |
| 2. Water Efficiently | 7. Recycle |
| 3. Fertilize Appropriately | 8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff |
| 4. Mulch | 9. Protect the Waterfront |
| 5. Attract Wildlife | |

Recycling in your yard is a way to reduce the amount of materials sent to our landfill and help protect our environment. Recycling is one of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Principles that is easy to adopt and can save you time and money. Recycling plant materials can improve the soils and help your turf areas. Simply leave the clippings on the lawn. They will eventually decompose and return nitrogen to the soil. But remember; never remove more than one third of an individual grass blade at one time. If you miss a mowing and your grass is very high leaving the clippings in large clumps may do damage to your turf and may need to be spread behind or in your plant beds.

It has been figured that Seminole County residents generated and land-filled over 55,000 tons of yard debris in 2011. Also, it is estimated that each individual home generates an average of 1.6 tons of garbage and .38 tons of yard scraps a year. Materials from mowing, pruning, raking are all materials that can be turned into valuable nutrients to our soil. After pruning trees and shrubs, create small cuttings and toss them into a compost pile or behind shrubs in your plant beds. Raked materials from trees that drop their leaves in the spring can be used as mulch for flowerbeds or just simply leave them where they drop beneath the trees.

Composting is a way of turning your plant materials into rich soil. Many people chose not to compost in their yard because of HOA rules and concerns about attracting wildlife into their yard. But remember, composting can be as simple as placing leaves, grass clippings, and small shrub and tree branches behind shrubs or in hidden corners of the yard and letting nature take its course. Composting bins or designated areas allow you to incorporate kitchen scraps like vegetable and fruit peels and seeds, eggshells, and coffee grounds and create great nutrients for your yard. Check out: <http://compostinfo.com> for more information.

Other materials from your house can be used in your yard and not be sent to the landfill such as:

Newspapers- May be used as weed barriers in plant beds and gardens. Edge flower beds or create walkways or patios. Fill in between the pieces with sand for a mosaic effect.

Carpet- Lay down carpet over an area for a new garden bed and let it sit for several weeks. Afterwards, the grass underneath will be decomposed, making for easy digging.

CD's- Scratched CDs can become coasters for potted plants, candles, or other objects that can stain your deck or patio furniture. Discourage wildlife foraging by threading CDs with garden twine or fishing line and hanging them in your garden. Turn CDs into reflective mobiles or wind chimes using wire, hooks, and fishing line.

Styrofoam peanuts- Use them in the bottom of potted plants to help reduce the weight of big planters. First put in a dryer sheet then a layer of peanuts. Next add potting soil, then your plants. Break up larger foam pieces for use in larger pots or as bases for raised garden beds.

Plastic bottles and containers- Cut the bottom of gallon jugs and place over seedlings and young plants to protect them from cold. (Make sure to take them off during the day to keep plants from overheating.) Turn plastic bottles into funnels or scoops for garden amendments. Make a bird feeder by making cutouts with cross dowels for perches on the side of the bottle (keep the lid on to keep seed dry).

Mulching and recycling are important Florida-Friendly Landscaping practices. Please adopt this practice in your yard.

To schedule a FYN program for your Homeowner Association or organization, or learn more contact Gabrielle Milch, FYN Coordinator, at 407 665-5575 or fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov. site www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn and www.FloridaYards.org

“Ask A Master Gardener”

Q. Can you suggest a free comprehensive landscaping guide for Central Florida?

A. Yes, The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection & Landscape Design, 1st ed. (2010) is a free 104 page comprehensive guide available online for free download at http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FYN_Plant_Selection_Guide_v090110.pdf. Included in this book is information on landscape design strategies, a landscape planning worksheet, and the Florida Friendly Landscaping Plant List containing many of the UF/IFAS-recommended Florida-Friendly plants for each region of the state.

A companion to the above is the 52 page The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Handbook (4th ed., 2009), available for free download at http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/materials/FYN_Handbook_vSept09.pdf.

A suggested learning strategy is to become familiar with these guides and attend one or more of the free Florida Friendly Landscaping classes offered throughout the year at various locations in Seminole County, where you will receive additional instruction and information from the Seminole County Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program Coordinator who has experience growing many of the plants in the guides. Each issue of the Green Thumb has a schedule of upcoming classes and locations.

Q. Can you suggest a fragrant flowering shrub for Central Florida?

A. One of my personal favorites is Sweet Almond, *Aloysia virgata* (a.k.a. Incense Bush, Sweet Almond Verbena, and White Almond Bush). It was one of the Florida Nursery Growers Association “Plant of the Year” winners in 2008 and has become a popular drought tolerant fixture in local butterfly gardens. You will need some space for this sweetly fragrant fast grower unless you keep it in a pot. It can grow to about 15 feet tall in Central Florida in full sun and spread perhaps 6 to 8 feet wide. However, it tolerates pruning quite well. Spires of white, intensely fragrant flowers appear throughout the warm months, attracting bees, butterflies and other pollinators. When left to its preferred habits, the plant tends to be upright, multi-stemmed, slightly weeping, bushy and informal, but some people train it to a single trunk “tree” form with persistent pruning. It can freeze back in the coldest of Central Florida winters, but almost always comes back strong in the spring. At the time of this writing, the Student Museum Gardens in Sanford has a single specimen about 5 years old that blooms in flushes during most of the warm months, and most likely gets pruned a time or two each year in its close quarters among neighboring plants in the Habitat Garden. Pay a visit to the Student Museum Gardens to see this and other interesting plants.

One of the most thorough Extension Service fact sheets for the plant was found at Texas A&M University, <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/syllabi/608/Lists/second%20ed/Aloysiavirgata.pdf> and the Okeechobee County Florida Extension Service has a good summary level description and growing tips at <http://okeechobee.ifas.ufl.edu/News%20columns/2008.Plants.htm>.

Note: listed website addresses were accurate at the time of publication, but are subject to change without notice by the webmasters.



The Teaching Gardens Of Seminole County

To educate and encourage the practice of urban horticulture

Free and open to the public during regular business hours. For more information, to request a speaker, or arrange group visits, contact the garden coordinator.

Extension Office Gardens • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

The Extension Office teaching gardens have been enjoying the early start of the rainy season as we head into summer proper. The vegetable garden raised beds in the front of the Office have been relocated to the rear of the office to accommodate some planned construction and in preparation for a larger and more varied vegetable garden demonstration slated for this fall's Master Gardener EXPO. The Sun, Partial Sun, Shade and Water-Wise Florida-Friendly gardens continue to show off great planting ideas for your landscapes. Come out to the Office and take a look! Stop by the Master Gardener help desk for answers to any summer gardening questions you may have and for a guided tour of the gardens with planting suggestions appropriate for your yard.

Coordinator: Jim Bourg, jwbourg@gmail.com

Student Museum Gardens • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

It's the end of the school year, a new era is about to happen at the museum and student museum gardens. A 110-year-old school museum in Sanford soon will become the home of the new UCF Center for Public History, where university students will learn how to preserve, interpret and teach the past. The museum will have extended open days, five days a week, excluding Wednesday and Sunday. One of the points of Mission is Participation, to engage the community to actively contribute to and learn from history. Won't you join us?

Coordinator: Dave Grace, dcgrace01@aol.com

Waterwise & Butterfly Garden • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

The Seminole County Extension Butterfly Garden in full bloom-and more. What was a new garden last year has now matured. New additions are Florida Native Honeysuckle Vine and Golden Dewdrop, both are favorites of the Official Florida Butterfly: Zebra Longwing. The wildlife found the fish so this is an opportunity to choose a new kind of fish— how about piranha?

Coordinator: Mary Allen, maisie303@yahoo.com

The Seminole County Master Gardener EXPO
Saturday, October 6, 2012 at Seminole County Extension Center
9am to 4 pm 250 W. County Home Rd., Sanford 407-665-5550
How to clinics, Vendors, guest speakers and lots more
For more info go to www.seminolecountymastergardeners.org



Pest Alert: THE RUGOSE SPIRALING WHITEFLY IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

A new exotic whitefly, *Aleurodicus rugioperculatus* was collected in Miami-Dade County on March 11, 2009. Its common name is rugose spiraling whitefly. Since late 2009, this insect has spread and the damage it causes to trees and shrubs has been posted on the internet. While most reports come from Miami-Dade County, there are additional records from Indian River and Polk counties, indicating that it may be able to survive in Central Florida. There are over 60 plant species recorded as hosts for the rugose spiraling whitefly. The plants most seriously affected are gumbo limbo and palms, especially coconut, as well as avocado, Florida black olive and *Calophyllum* species.

Damage: Infestations can become extremely dense, often completely covering the underside of the leaves surface. Frequently, the distinctive egg spirals are seen on leaves, but with no developing larvae or pupae on the plant. Besides the stress produced to the plant by removing water and nutrients, the sticky residue they excrete, called honeydew, covers leaves and promotes the growth of a fungus called sooty-mold. Homeowners are not only plagued by the decline in the health of their plants, but by the honeydew, sticky wax and bodies of dead adult whiteflies that fall onto cars, patios, patio furniture and into pools, clogging water filters.

Control: Good control can be achieved by using systemic insecticides, either as soil drenches or trunk injections if repeated applications of insecticides are used.



Seminole County Extension

Home Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd
Sanford FL 32773

Located across from Flea World,
17-92 & County Home Road

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Your Community Resource For
Gardening And Landscaping
Information
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Coopext/

Cooperative Extension Services
Seminole County Office

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Free quarterly
Newsletter

To receive by email
aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

**Newsletter
Contributors:**

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**Seminole County:
USDA Hardiness
Zone 9b
Amer.Hort.Soc.
Heat Zone 10**

EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

July 7, 2012
9:30am-11:30am

How to Build a Rain Garden
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!
info fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

July 28, 2012
9:30am - Noon

Fla. Friendly Landscaping for
HOA Boards & Prop. Managers
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!
info fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

July 27-29, 2012
7:00am— 6:00pm

Fla. Small Farms Conferenc
Osceola Heritage Park Kissimmee
Regis. Before July 9 \$180.00
Mandy Stage 352-392-5930
For more details mstage@ufl.edu

August 9, 2012
6:30pm-8:30pm

Manage Your Pests Responsibly
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration required \$10.00
407-665-5575 FREE!!!
info fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

August 11, 2012
9:30am-11:30am

Fertilize Appropriately
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!
info fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

August 18, 2012
9:00am-NOON

Vegetable Gardening in Florida
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration required \$10.00
407-665-5550
Info aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

August 25, 2012
9:00am-NOON

Vegetable Gardening in Florida
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration required \$10.00
407-665-5550
Info aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov